

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 OIC-02 OES-07 CEA-01
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TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, EAID, CE

SUBJECT: 27TH COLOMBO PLAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
(CPCC) - REORGANIZATION OF NEXT MEETING

REFS: (A) KATHMANDU 5353; (B) KATHMANDU 5284

1. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO REORGANIZE THE NEXT COLOMBO
PLAN MEETING TO MAKE IT LESS FORMAL AND MORE PRODUCTIVE.
AS INDICATED IN REFTELS, PARTICIPANTS AT THE KATHMANDU MEET-
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INGS TENDED TO MAKE FORMAL STATEMENTS WHICH LACKED FOCUS AND
FAILED TO GENERATE A DIALOGUE. WE BELIEVE FORMAL STATE-
MENTS SHOULD BE HELD TO A MINIMUM; DELEGATES SHOULD BE EN-
COURAGED TO CIRCULATE THEIR STATEMENTS, AND SUMMARIZE THEM
IN PLENARY. WE HOPE TO ARRANGE THE FOUR COMMITTEES AS
SEMINARS AND EMPHASIZE INFORMAL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON WELL-
DEFINED ISSUES. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MINIMIZE DOCUMENTA-

TION AND REDUCE COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS. THE CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS A FEW SALIENT POINTS AND ONLY BE ABOUT 500 WORDS IN LENGTH, EXCEPT PERHAPS CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE SPECIAL TOPIC, WHICH WILL REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE COMMENTS. IN THIS WAY, PARTICIPANTS MIGHT DISCUSS ISSUES AND AVOID POSTURING ON POINTS THAT ARE NOT RELEVANT TO THE ISSUES ON HAND. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD AGREE TO THE MAJOR ISSUES FOR THE MEETING AHEAD OF TIME SO THAT MINISTERS COULD COME

LATE TO THE SPECIAL TOPICS CONCERNING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS (SEE REF. B). WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SUGGEST SEVERAL TOPICS FOR THE COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION.

2. AS INDICATED IN REF. A, THE 1977 CPCC DECIDED THAT AN AD HOC GROUP OF THE CP COUNCIL AT COLOMBO SHOULD REVIEW DOCUMENTATION AND PROCEDURES FOR THE NEXT MEETING. THE U.S., AS THE NEXT HOST, AND IRAN, THE INITIATORS OF THE PROPOSAL, WERE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS GROUP. THE U.S. SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE AND SUGGESTS THAT THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN THE COUNCIL ENCOURAGE THE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH QUICKLY THE GROUP. WE HOPE THAT THE EMBASSY WILL TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE AND SEEK COUNCIL AGREEMENT ON THE TIMEFRAME FOR PREPARATION OF THE GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOR COUNCIL ACTION ON THEM.

3. THE IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVE, AN OFFICER OF THE MINISTRY
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OF INDUSTRIES AND MINES, MR. ALI AKBAR HAJ ALI AKBARI, INDICATED THAT IRAN WOULD PARTICIPATE IN REORGANIZING THE CPCC. HIS VIEWS SEEM TO COINCIDE WITH OUR OWN. IRAN, WE UNDERSTAND, NOW HAS A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CP COUNCIL IN COLOMBO. IF THIS IS THE CASE, THE EMBASSY MIGHT EXPLORE THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS WITH HIM. WE MIGHT ALSO CONTACT ALI AKBAR IN TEHRAN, SHOULD IRAN NOT BE RESPONSIVE IN COLOMBO. BILLINGS, USAID/COLOMBO, PARTICIPATED IN A DISCUSSION AT KATHMANDU OF POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION PLANS WITH THE SRI LANKAN, MALAYSIAN AND INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL AS THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU. THESE REPRESENTATIVES ALSO INDICATED SUPPORT FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE CPCC.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY KEEPING US INFORMED ON THIS MATTER. WE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO HOSTING AN EFFECTIVE, PRODUCTIVE CPCC AND MUCH DEPENDS ON YOUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN COUNCIL AGREEMENT TO RESTRUCTURING THE MEETING AND REDUCING SHARPLY THE DOCUMENTATION AND THE LENGTH OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

5. THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU DIRECTOR, MISS STORAR, INDICATED TO THE U.S. DELEGATION IN KATHMANDU THAT SHE WOULD PREPARE A SUMMARY OF "LESSONS LEARNED" FROM AND ADMINISTRATIVE

TASKS AT THE 26TH CP CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE. SUCH A SUMMARY WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING IT ASAP. PLEASE POUCH TO NEA/INS. VANCE

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